

Committee on Ways and Means

H.R. 6408, Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006

Update to Dialysis Facilities

- The *Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006* provides a 1.6 percent update to End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) facilities in 2007. ESRD facilities provide dialysis and treatment to Medicare's sickest beneficiaries.
- Currently, ESRD facilities do not have an automatic update to the composite rate, unlike other providers.
- In 2005, the *Medicare Modernization Act* (MMA) provided an update of 1.6 percent. In 2006, the *Deficit Reduction Act* (DRA) again provided a 1.6 percent update.
- It is important to provide a dialysis update so facilities can provide care to the growing number of ESRD patients, some of the sickest beneficiaries, in the United States.
- In the future, updates should be provided based on the quality of care ESRD facilities provide.